

Clinton Avenue Historic District
Frederick L. Westbrook House
286 Clinton Avenue
Kingston
Ulster County
New York

HABS No. NY-5561-A

HABS
NY,
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21A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. NY-5561-A

CLINTON AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

FREDERICK L. WESTBROOK HOUSE

Location: 286 Clinton Avenue, Kingston, Ulster County, New York.
Latitude 41° 56' 03" Longitude 74° 01' 04"

Present Owner: Urban Renewal Agency.

Present Occupant: Various Attorneys.

Present Use: Offices.

Significance: The house is an example of a Greek Revival townhouse adapted to an urban site.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The house was built circa 1859-64.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners:

1858 Will written: 4 November 1858, Proved:
24 January 1873
liber R of wills, page 210
Jacob Burhans
to

Elsie Anna Westbrook, wife of
Frederick L. Westbrook

Burhans gave his daughter, Mrs. Westbrook the lot on Clinton Avenue (then known as East Front Street) along with any buildings he should put on it. At that time, he said, his intention was to "...expand about five thousand dollars on erecting a house and making other improvements on said lot as soon as practicable..." He further stipulated that if he died before he could complete the house, then his executors should complete the building at a cost not to exceed five thousand dollars.

1898 Will written: 9 April 1898, Proved: 24 April 1899
liber 5 of wills, page 257
Frederick L. Westbrook
to
J. Amelia Westbrook, his daughter

- 1919 Deed: 10 June 1919, Recorded: 10 June 1919
liber 469, page 54
J. Amelia Westbrook
to
Jeannette Sanford Warren
- 1945 Deed: 1 October 1945, Recorded: 2 October 1945
liber 656, page 189
Jeannette Sanford Warren
to
Claremont Robert Morris
- 1946 Deed: 10 December 1946, Recorded: 11 December 1946
liber 676, page 246
Claremont Robert Morris
to
Suzanne De Groff Hyde
- 1954 Deed: 11 December 1954, Recorded: 31 December 1954
liber 913, page 575
Suzanne De Groff Hyde
to
Arthur B. Ewig
Alfred D. Ronder
- 1969 Deed: 28 August 1969, Recorded: 3 September 1969
liber 1232, page 713
Arthur B. Ewig
Alfred D. Ronder
to
Kingston Urban Renewal Agency

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Not known.
5. Original plan and construction: Not known.
6. Alterations and additions: A two-story addition was built at rear of house at an unknown date.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Jacob Burhans was the president of the State of New York Bank in the 1850s. His son-in-law, Frederick L. Westbrook, for whom Burhans built the house, was a lawyer in Kingston.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deeds, County Clerk's Office, Ulster County Office Building,
Kingston, New York.

Wills, Surrogate's Office, Ulster County Office Building,
Kingston, New York.

Directories of Kingston and Rondout, collection of
Senate House Museum, Kingston, New York.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Map of Ulster County. Philadelphia: Taintor, Dawson and
Company, 1858.

Prepared by: William C. Badger
Historian
Historic Americans Buildings
Survey
Summer 1972

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building is an example of an early nineteenth century Greek Revival townhouse.
2. Condition of fabric: The over-all condition of the house is good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This two-and-a-half story house is 30' wide with three bays making up the main block of the building. On the north there is a two-bay wing. There is a two-story addition and porch on the rear.
2. Foundations: The house sits on a stone foundation.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The main block and the north wing has brick walls painted white. The rear walls are wood.
4. Structural system, framing: The house is supported by brick walls on the exterior, and wood framing on the interior.
5. Porches: A Greek Revival porch with Ionic columns occupies the front facade. Another porch of wood construction is in the rear facade.
6. Chimneys: There are two brick chimneys on either side of the gables of the main block of the building.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The main entranceway is flanked by classical pilasters with a classical entablature running across the door head. There is a rectangular transom and sidelights.

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- b. Windows and shutters: Wooden double-hung windows are six-over-six lights in the main block. In the front of the wing they are paired windows with four-over-four lights. All the windows have lintels and louvered shutters.
- 8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: A gable roof shelters the main block, with a perpendicular gable in the wing, and both roofs are covered with asphalt shingles.
 - b. Cornice: The house is adorned with a denticulated cornice of classical design, with, with broken pediments in the gable ends.
- C. Description of Interior: The house was inaccessible at the time the survey was being conducted by the Historic American Buildings Survey.
- D. Site and surroundings: The house is located at the northeast intersection of Clinton Avenue and Westbrook Lane. The west and south sides are near the streets and the large backyard has been leveled to accommodate parking. There is a notable cast-iron fence of classical design across the length of the front.

Prepared by William C. Badger
Historian
Historic American Buildings
Survey
Summer 1972.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under joint sponsorship of the National Park Service and the Kingston Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission with financial assistance from the New York Council on the Arts. Measured and drawn during the summer of 1972 under the direction of John Poppeliers, chief of HABS and under the supervision of Roy Eugene Graham (University of Washington), A. Carol Boerder (University of Texas at Austin), M. Morgan Gick (University of Notre Dame), and Stephen O. Fildes (Texas Tech University). The drawings were edited in December 1972 by architect John Burns. The written architectural and historical data was prepared by William C. Badger (University of Pennsylvania), the project historian, and edited in January 1980 by Susan McCown, a historian in the HABS office. The photos were taken in August 1973 by Jack E. Boucher of HABS staff.